

A NEW SPECIES OF *FORSTERONIA* (APOCYNACEAE) FROM COSTA RICA

J. Francisco Morales

Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio), Apto. 22 - 3100, Sto. Domingo de Heredia, COSTA RICA

ABSTRACT

A new species of *Forsteronia* from Costa Rica, is described and the relationships are discussed.

KEY WORDS: Costa Rica, Apocynaceae, *Forsteronia*

During preparation of the treatment of Apocynaceae for the "Manual de Plantas de Costa Rica", I detected an undescribed species of *Forsteronia* with straight secondary nerves, a very unusual character within the genus.

Forsteronia monteverdensis J.F. Morales, *spec. nov.* TYPE: COSTA RICA. Alajuela: Cantón de San Ramón, Reserva Biológica Monteverde, Cordillera de Tilarán, bosque primario en la fila Cerros Centinela, 1600 m, 10°17'55" N, 84°47'23" W, 6 June 1994, (fl, fr), J.F. Morales & G. Carnevali 3349 (HOLOTYPE: INB).

Frutex scandens, ramulis teretibus, glabrus. Foliae elliptica vel oblanceolata, 5.5-12.5 cm longa, 1.5-3.5 cm lata, glabra, apice acuminata, basi cuneata, venis secundariis rectis, petioli glabrus. Lobis calycis acuminatis, 1.5-2.0 mm longus, puberulis; corolla alba, tubo extus glabra, lobis puberulis, 3-4 mm longus. Folliculis glabrus, 18-28 cm longus.

Liana, branchlets terete, glabrous, smooth or sparsely lenticellate. Leaves opposite, 5.5-12.5 cm long, 1.5-3.5 cm wide, elliptic, oblong-elliptic or oblong-lanceolate, glabrous with domatia in the midvein axils below, acuminate to caudate-acuminate at apex, acute to cuneate at base, membranaceous, eglandular, midvein impressed above, prominent and conspicuous below, secondary veins impressed on both sides, brochidodromous, tertiary venation scarcely impressed; petioles canaliculate, glabrous, 5-11 mm long, glandular in the axils. Inflorescence corymbose to subcorymbose, terminal, shorter than the subtending leaves, puberulent, 14-35-flowered, peduncle 4-6(-9) mm long, pedicels 4-6 mm long, bracts ovate, 1-2 mm long, scarious; calyx lobes ovate, ca. 2 mm long, margins sparsely ciliate, squamellae 1-4 per lobe, scarious, corolla cream to white-cream, tube 2.0-2.5 mm long, glabrous

outside, pubescent within near the throat; corolla lobes oblong-obovate, 3-4 mm long, puberulent; stamens exerted, 3.0-3.5 mm long, anthers glabrous, ca. 3 mm long, sagittate; nectary 5-lobed, ca. 0.5 mm long, ovary puberulent to glabrate, style ca. 3 mm long. Follicles thin, 14-28 cm long, glabrous, smooth and terete; seeds oblong-elliptic to elliptic, puberulent to glabrate, 1.0-1.5 cm long, coma 2.6-3.0 cm long, tan to cream.

Distribution. Only known from wet premontane and montane tropical forest in the Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve and Volcán Tenorio region, near Tilaran, Province Guanacaste, at elevations of 650-1600 m.

Forsteronia monteverdensis is closely related to *F. floribunda* (Sw.) A.DC. from Jamaica, which also has straight secondary nerves. However, the puberulent corolla lobes and larger leaves easily distinguish *F. monteverdensis*. *Forsteronia peninsularis* differs from this new species in its arcuate secondary venation.

Additional specimens examined: COSTA RICA. Guanacaste: Zona Protectora Tenorio, Tierras Morenas, 685 m, 10 Aug. 1993 (fr), *Rodríguez G. et al.* 201 (CR,INB,MO).

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